

Salem Town Vision Survey Committee

Minutes for Meeting of May 27, 2009

Present: Shirley Diamond, Carole Eckart, Richard Asafaylo, Janet Griggs, Diane Weston, Tom Woronik, Len Giambra

Absent: Frank Abetti, Sam Rindell, Cheryl Cassidy

Meeting was called to order at 7:18.

C. Eckart suggested that at the 6/10/09 meeting the group should review the questions developed at the last meeting. After that, representatives of the Vision Committee need to meet with the representatives from the POCD Committee and the Economic Development Commission. The group worked with the "topics and Questions for Vision Committee short ver.xls" spread sheet.

Additional questions were proposed as follows:

Community Character:

What gives you a sense of community?

Housing:

It was noted that to insure a consistent understanding of the term "affordable housing", a definition should be provided before the questions on this topic.

One issue that needs to be explored is how to provide a mechanism for making housing affordable for fire fighters – eg subsidy or interest free loans.

Municipal Facilities and Infrastructure:

Do people want a bike lane or public sidewalk from the school to town hall.

The design of the questionnaire was discussed.

1. It must be short enough that people are willing to complete it.
2. Questions must be prioritized before meeting with the other two groups.
3. Must get demographic information from responder. Important issues are
 1. home owner vs renter
 2. household that currently includes children vs. empty nest household where children grew up in Salem vs household that never had children in Salem

The group discussed who should be allowed to complete the questionnaire. Possibilities are

1. All residents
2. All taxpayers
3. Each household or each adult?

The group agreed that it is important to encourage response but also to prevent "stuffing" the ballot box. One possibility is to use a database to associate an ID Number with a respondent.

Len suggested that the questionnaire is the first part of the survey. Focus groups should follow the compilation of questionnaire results. The questionnaire should allow the respondent to check that they

would like to be included in a focus group.

The questionnaire will need to be developed by representative of the three groups. It is important that the developers have experience with developing questionnaires. Len Giambra does have experience. It is believed that Frank Abetti also does though he could also represent POCD.

Adjourn at 8:35 Woronik/Weston

Unanimous.